

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0152

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 11929

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. ACCORDING TO MICHEL LAGORCE OF CONCORDE STAFF AT DGCA, CESARE PATTARINI, DIRECTOR OF AVIATION FOR THE NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY, HAS WRITTEN GILBERT DREYFUSS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY, TO INQUIRE WHETHER HE MIGHT VISIT CDG AIRPORT AND INSPECT NOISE MONITORING SYSTEMS THAT MIGHT BE IN OPERATION THERE IN CONNECTION WITH CONCORDE FLIGHTS. PATTARINI HAS BEEN CHARGED BY PORT AUTHORITY WITH ASSESSING NOISE IMPACT OF CONCORDE AT DULLES, CDG AND HEATHROW DURING THE SIX MONTH PERIOD PORT AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED DEFER ITS OWN DECISION FOLLOWING COMMENCEMENT OF CONCORDE SERVICE TO DULLES.

2. LAGORCE SAID THAT INITIAL REACTION ON FRENCH SIDE WAS HOSTILITY TO PATTARINI VISIT BECAUSE OF NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY'S UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TO DATE TOWARD CONCORDE. RCAA EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THIS WAS POOR TACTIC. OBVIOUSLY PATTARINI COULD NOT VISIT CDG FACILITIES AND HAVE ACCESS TO ANY NOISE MONITORING DATA THERE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF GOF
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AUTHORITIES. BUT REFUSING PATTARINI ACCESS WOULD NOT

CHANGE IN ANY WAY THE NOISE THAT CONCORDE DOES MAKE AND WHICH IS ALREADY WELL DOCUMENTED, WHEREAS REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WOULD RISK UNNECESSARILY ANTAGONIZING NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY AS WELL AS PERHAPS SUGGESTING TO THEM THAT FRENCH DID INDEED HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. WE THEREFORE SAW NOTHING TO LOSE IF FRENCH COOPERATED WITH PATTARINI AND, ON THE CONTRARY, THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO DO SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK ON HIM THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE HIS OWN THINKING AND, THROUGH HIM, THAT OF THE PORT AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE WITH REGARD TO CONCORDE. LAGORCE WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THESE VIEWS WHICH HE SAID COINCIDED ENTIRELY WITH HIS OWN WAY OF THINKING. HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITHIN THE GOF.

3. WE ASKED LAGORCE TO KEEP US POSTED IF PLANS FOR PATTARINI VISIT WENT FORWARD BECAUSE EMBASSY TOO WOULD LIKE OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH PATTARINI AND DISCUSS THE CONCORDE PROBLEM. WE FURTHER SUGGESTED TO LAGORCE THAT WHEN PATTARINI WAS IN PARIS IT MIGHT BE GOOD IDEA ALSO TO EXPOSE HIM TO FRENCH MARITIME INTERESTS WHOSE CONTINUED GOODWILL WAS PRESUMABLY VALUED BY THE PORT OF NEW YORK BUT WAS PERHAPS OVERLOOKED AS PORT AUTHORITY TOOK ACTIONS DEEMED INIMICAL TO FRENCH CIVIL INTERESTS.
RUSH

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